



Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
406-542-5500
November 4, 2009

*Governor's Office, Attn: Mike Volesky, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801

Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704

*Dept. of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901

*Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, POB 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601

*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Website, Commission Secretary, Division Secretaries, Regional Office Managers, Region 2 Information Officer,

*State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

*MT State Library, PO BOX 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800

MT Environmental Information Center, Attn: Jim Jensen, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624-1184

Montana Wildlife Federation, Attn: Craig Sharpe, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624-1175

Clearwater Resource Council, Attn: Jon Haufler, PO Box 1471, Seeley Lake, MT 59868-1471

*Region 2 FWP Citizens Advisory Committee

**Blackfoot-Clearwater Citizens Advisory Committee

Missoula County Commissioners, 200 W Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802

Missoula County Weed Supervisor, 2825 Santa Fe Crt, Missoula, MT 59808

Missoula Office of Planning & Grants, 435 Ryman, Missoula, MT 59802

Missoula Rural Initiatives, Attn: Pat O'Herren, 200 W Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802

Missoula Conservation District, 3550 Mullan Rd Ste 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125

Landowners & Adjacent landowners

*Emailed notification of the availability of the EA

**Mailed a postcard notification of the availability of the EA

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to exchange approximately 19 acres on the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA) along the corridor of Montana Highway 83 with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for a 53-acre parcel that is adjacent to BCWMA's western boundary. This exchange is necessary for MDT's Clearwater Junction-North Project to widen and realign the right-of-way for Highway 83 in Missoula County between Clearwater Junction and Seeley Lake. If implemented, this action would be in lieu of monetary payment from MDT to FWP for right-of-way acquisition across the WMA.

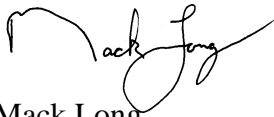
FWP will hold a public meeting in Seeley Lake on November 9, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station (west of Highway 83 at milemarker 17), to discuss the proposed acquisition and take public comment.

This draft EA is available for review in Helena at FWP's Headquarters, the State Library and the Environmental Quality Council. It also may be obtained from the Region 2 FWP Headquarters or viewed on FWP's Internet website at <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Recent Public Notices").

Comments on this draft EA must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 19, 2009. Comments should be mailed to FWP at the address above or emailed to jkolbe@mt.gov. If you have questions, please contact Jay Kolbe at 406-677-0162.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its December 10th meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mack Long", written over a horizontal line.

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr